

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 45 of 1891.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND RAJPUTANA,

Received up to 12th November 1891.

POLITICAL AND NATIVE STATES.

The *Rahbar* (Moradabad), of the 8th November, says that Russian occupation of the Kashmir policy of the Government of India is responsible for the Russian occupation of the Pamirs. But for the interference of the Government of India with the affairs of Kashmir, probably the Pamirs would not have been occupied by Russia. Now it is necessary that Gilghit should be strongly fortified, but the Kashmir State, which has only half a dozen guns, is hardly in a position to do so.

Circulation,
160 copies.

The *Hindustani* (Lucknow), of the 4th November, says that although the sanguine hopes which those journalists who have made it their special duty to advocate the interests of native princes were led to form from the Viceroy's visit to Kashmir have not been realized, His Excellency treated Mahárāja Pratáb Singh with great kindness, which was not generally expected. When the Mahárāja was deprived of power, he was represented to be a rebel and unfit to rule, and His Excellency even refused to see him. But during his late visit to Kashmir, Lord Lansdowne expressed great sympathy with the Mahárāja, called him a true friend of the British Government, and proposed his health at the State banquet.

Circulation,
300 copies.

The question is, what has brought about such a great change in his lordship's ideas regarding the Mahārāja? The change cannot be due to the agitation of native newspapers, for which his lordship has no respect, as is evident from his conduct towards them; nor can the Kashmir debate in Parliament be expected to have had any effect on him, as depending on the aid of Lord Salisbury, he can afford to view the opinions of any Liberal Members of Parliament with indifference. Hence it would appear that the Mahārāja has to thank the Russians for his kind treatment by the Viceroy. Had not Russia occupied the Pamirs, Lord Lansdowne would not have declared with reference to Mahārāja Pratāb Singh, who had been condemned as an imbecile drunkard by the Anglo-Indians, that his lordship hoped that if the British Government had to fight with an enemy, the Mahārāja would follow the conduct of his grandfather, Mahārāja Gulab Singh, who had rendered such signal services during the Mutiny. But confidence begets confidence. The British Government cannot expect feudatory chiefs to gladly sacrifice their lives and property on its behalf in an emergency until it trusts them. The happiness and contentment of the people and a confidence in the loyalty of the princes are essential to the stability of British rule in this country. Empty promises are received at their exact worth.

Circulation,
235 copies.

A correspondent of the *Āzād* (Lucknow), of the 6th November, does not understand why Major Vincent, Rāmpur. Vincent was sent for from such a distant place and made President of the Rāmpur Council. What special qualifications does he possess for the appointment? He is very fond of jocularities and his proceedings are marked by undue severity. At night he asks the story-teller to relate witty tales, and takes great interest in mimics and dancing girls at feasts, which are frequently held in villages situated at a distance from the city. He has the resources of the State at his disposal at present and can do what he pleases. When he went to attend a feast at Chhataria, he found the teacher in the school at Lalpur absent. The teacher was ordered to be dismissed and to wait on him for further punishment. When the head of the Education Department in the State asked him what further punishment he intended to

inflict on the teacher, he said that he would give the man a few cuts with his cane! The news has caused a sensation among the people. Government should appoint a better man President of the Council, who may conduct the administration satisfactorily during the Nawab's minority.

Circulation,
235 copies.

A correspondent of the *Ázád* (Lucknow), of the 6th November, says that as the jail is in charge of the Judicial Member, Major Vincent had no business to interfere with the convicts. When the convicts refused to wear the new dress, one of the Major's Afghan orderlies, seizing a convict, tried to make him put on the dress by force. Two or three convicts caught hold of the orderly, who struck one of them with his sword. The wounded convict forcibly took the sword from the orderly and severely wounded the latter with it. An *émeute* occurred and the Major's other orderly and several other convicts received injuries. The police fired on the convicts, killing one and wounding many others, of whom two or three lie on their deathbeds. But the anger of the Major was not yet gratified, and he was guilty of a still more cruel act. Five convicts were shot and their bodies were ill-treated. It is to be regretted that such atrocities should be committed under British rule. Even the Manipuris, who were guilty of a much graver offence, were not so summarily dealt with. Government cannot allow the Major, who has perpetrated such cruelties, to remain in Rámpur.

Circulation,
91 copies.

The *Hámid-ul Akhbár* (Moradabad), of the 6th November, expresses surprise that although the proprietor of the *Nayyar-i-Ázam* was at Rámpur at the time of the occurrence of the jail riots, he has made some serious misstatements in his account of the outbreak. Obviously he was misled by false rumours prevailing in the streets of Rámpur, but he ought to have satisfied himself as to their truth before giving publicity to them. The convicts were never promised pardon by the Judicial Member, as alleged by the *Nayyar-i-Ázam*, nor did any convicts commit suicide by throwing themselves into a well. The *Hámid-ul-Akhbár* then gives exactly the same account of the distur-

The same.

bance as appeared in the *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari* of Rámpur, adding that the account is based on information received from a very reliable source.

Circulation,
540 copies.

The *Oudh Akhbár* (Lucknow), of the 7th November, highly approves of the speedy and exemplary punishment inflicted on the principal rioters in the Rámpur jail by Major Vincent, and hopes that the inhabitants of Rámpur, who have lately been very ready to commit riots and murders, will take a lesson and mend their ways.

Circulation,
175 copies.

The *Najm-ul-Akhbár* (Etáwah), of the 1st November, says that it appears from the *Nayyar-i-Azam* of Moradabad that the jail riots at Rámpur were due to the orders issued by Major Vincent regarding the shaving and the dress of convicts. There was no necessity to shave the beards of Muhammadan convicts. Even in British India Sikh convicts are not shaved, and the same concession has been recommended by native newspapers for Muhammadan prisoners. The use of the same kind of dress by convicts is no doubt advisable, but there could be no difficulty in altering the dress, which Major Vincent desired to introduce, with a view to remove the objection which was urged against it. Major Vincent being a military officer and possessing no experience of civil administration, was inexorable and insisted on the same dress being worn. The conduct of the convicts in committing riots was inexcusable. They ought to have obeyed the orders of the President. They might have subsequently appealed to the Council, if they liked. As there was a general outbreak in the jail, the Major was right in ordering the police to fire on the convicts, with a view to suppress the disturbance and restore order. But the way in which the ring-leaders were dealt with after the restoration of order was very unjustifiable. They were bound to stakes and shot, and their bodies were buried without any religious ceremony. They really deserved capital punishment, but they should have been tried in the usual way before being condemned. If Major Vincent desired to enforce martial law, a court-martial should have been appointed to try the offenders. The

Major has shown himself to be unfit for the high post he holds in the State. A commission, consisting of European officers and respectable Muhammadans, should be appointed to enquire into the causes of the riots.

The *Túti-i-Hind* (Meerut), of the 8th November, accuses

The same.

Major Vincent of having acted with undue haste. All reforms should be introduced gradually, as is done by Government. If the old convicts objected to put on the proposed dress, they might have been exempted, its use being insisted on in the case of new prisoners.

The *Mihr-i-Nimroz* (Bijnor), of the 7th November, says

Despatch of a contingent of British troops to Rámpur.

that a contingent of 800 British troops, consisting equally of Europeans and natives with four guns, has been sent from Bareilly to Rámpur, to prevent the occurrence of any outbreak. The troops reached Rámpur on the 3rd November and were encamped outside the city.

Circulation,
385 copies.

ADMINISTRATION.

The *Hindustani* (Lucknow), of the 4th November, says

Alleged shooting of a native by a European soldier at Allahabad.

that a Musalmán, named Gházi, on his way from the city to his village at Allahabad, was struck by a bullet in the arm and lies in a precarious state. Four European soldiers were found shooting in the neighbourhood at the time. It is to be regretted that no effectual measures are adopted to check the occurrence of such unfortunate incidents which are so very frequent.

Circulation,
300 copies.

The *Nasim-i-Agra*, of the 7th November, says that the re-

Rent and revenue laws and the poverty of the country.

venue and the rent laws are among the principal causes of the growing poverty of this country. At every periodical revision of settlement the revenue and the rent assessments are increased, and the landholders and tenants are exposed to a great deal of expenditure and have also to spend a still larger amount in illegal gratifications to official hirelings. Again, the revision of settlement throws the apple of discord among landowners and cultivators and encourages ruinous litigation.

Circulation,
425 copies.

Another great misfortune which befalls cultivators every year is ejectment. Landholders are anxious to prevent ordinary tenants from acquiring the right of occupancy, and therefore take pretty good care to eject them before they complete the period which would entitle them to such right. Many peasants, thus turned out of their holdings, all of a sudden, and having no other means of earning a livelihood, take to committing thefts and robberies. No doubt ejectments are beneficial to Government, inasmuch as the litigation which they encourage increases the stamp revenue, and the enhancement of rent assessments affords Government an opportunity for enhancing the revenue at the next revision of settlement. But the small profit derived in this way is nothing compared with the injury done to the State by the ruin of the agricultural classes. A happy and contented peasantry would be a source of strength to Government, and hence it is necessary to modify the law with a view to check the steady enhancement of rent and the ejectment of cultivators.

Circulation,
800 copies.

The *Nayyar-i-Āzam* (Moradabad), of the 2nd November, observes that the winter tours of District Officers are useful, inasmuch as they afford such officers an opportunity for acquiring some knowledge of the condition of the people, looking into the management of tahsildars' offices, schools, dispensaries, &c., and improving their health by engaging in shooting. But, on the other hand, the winter tours as at present conducted are open to several grave objections. Men whose cases are pending before an officer in camp have no easy means of finding out where he will be encamped on the day fixed for hearing the cases; have to pay high fees to mukhtars and are exposed to great unnecessary inconvenience and expenditure owing to the scarcity of food and lodgings in small villages. Traders who supply provisions, firewood, and so forth, to the camps of officers, do not receive full prices; and shoemakers, tailors, and other artisans are pressed into service by the officers' servants, but are paid no wages. In short, a great deal of tyranny and extortion are practised by official hirelings in connection with the cold weather tours, and therefore a change in the present system is urgently needed. The officers should encamp them-

selves only at the chief towns where the tahsildars' offices are situated, and order their servants to get provisions and other things from the bazar in the usual way like private individuals, without the aid of tahsil chaprasis. (The same article is published in the *Rafi-ul-Akhhár*, Benares, of the 9th November.)

The *Hindustani* (Lucknow), of the 4th November, says that Mr. Hughes is engaged in making necessary surveys in connection with the proposed water-works at Lucknow, and that a strong committee, consisting of official and non-official members, has been formed by the Municipal Board to assist him in the work. The committee is sure to thoroughly discuss any scheme before approving it. Two schemes have been prepared. One scheme provides for 40 miles of pipes and fifteen hundred thousand gallons of water a day, at an annual cost of one lakh and twenty-one thousand rupees, while according to the other scheme 25 miles of pipes could be laid and ten hundred thousand gallons of water supplied at an expense of Rs. 85,000 a year. An average daily supply of only 7½ gallons of water per head of population is contemplated. But Lucknow is a large city and 25 or 40 miles of pipes will not do. In that case the residents of those very parts of the city where there is a scarcity of water would be left out in the cold. Again, 7½ gallons of water would be quite inadequate for the requirements of a man. There should be eighty miles of pipes, 20 standposts being erected in each mile, and the daily average supply of water per head of population should not be less than 15 gallons. It is true that the above proposals would involve a considerably larger expenditure than the two schemes proposed by Mr. Hughes, but a half-hearted measure could be of no good. The municipal board had better fully realize its responsibility and the requirements of the people before deciding the water-supply question. It should not allow itself to be deceived by an underestimate of the cost.

Circulation,
300 copies.

The *Prayag Samachár* (Allahabad), of the 5th November, complains that the house-tax assessments have been made by Babu Ajudhya Prasad, Naib Tahsildár, with great severity. Pandit Ajudhya Nath, Vakil, pays a monthly rent of Rs. 45 for the

Circulation,
400 copies.

house he lives in; Lāla Janki Prasad's and Lāla Kalian Chand's houses are much smaller than the Pandit's, but they have been assessed at a rental value of Rs. 75 a month! Another proof of the overassessment of these two houses is that a very large house situated near Lāla Janki Prasad's house used to be rented for only Rs. 15 a month. It has lately been bought and turned into a *dharamshala* by Lāla Jado Rai. The house of Lālas Gopi Nath and Gaya Prasad, which is very small compared with Pandit Ajudhya Nath's house, has been assessed at Rs. 85 a month. Similarly a nice small room in which the owner has established a library, called the Bharati Bhawan, has been assessed at Rs. 40; the house should be exempt from the tax, as the library held in it is open to the public. At Mirganj one house has been assessed at Rs. 4 a month, while another of almost equal size, situated close by and occupied by Lāla Kalian Chand, at double the amount. There is a great sensation among the citizens owing to overassessments. The house-tax will press heavily upon the people and should not be levied. But if it be impossible to remit the tax, some conscientious and respectable municipal commissioner, who is not a Government servant, should be appointed to revise the assessments with care.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The *Tahya-i-Hind* (Bijnor), of the 6th November, says that men generally complain in private of the unfair assessment of the income-tax. But this secret grumbling is of no use. The higher authorities are ready to listen to the grievances of the people and to inquire into complaints made against their subordinates. Every man is at perfect liberty to lay his grievances before the authorities in the proper way. It would seem that in Madras, low paid officials were entrusted with the assessment of the income-tax, and that they were guilty of extortion and high-handedness. As soon as the matter came to the notice of the Board of Revenue, it ordered the men whose incomes exceed Rs. 10,000 a year to be assessed by the Collectors themselves, those whose incomes are above Rs. 2,000 but do not exceed Rs. 10,000 to be assessed by the divisional officers, and the others to be assessed by the tahsildars or naib-tahsildars. The

arrangement is a good one and will remove a great deal of complaint in connection with the assessment of the tax.

The *Hindustan* (Kálákankar), of the 6th November, regrets to notice that the Agricultural Department, which was established to promote the welfare of the agricultural classes, and costs the tax-payers a great deal of money, has not yet done anything to justify its existence. Some time ago it employed some men in travelling over the country and lecturing cultivators on improved methods of cultivation. But their lectures had not the desired effect, as might be expected. The Department recommended the use of English ploughs, but they were found to be too expensive and heavy, and therefore it was impossible for Indian peasants to use them. The only way to improve agriculture is to establish influential agricultural societies, which should hold frequent meetings, explaining necessary reforms to the peasantry living in their neighbourhood, and lay the grievances of cultivators before Government and landholders. If advances were granted to cultivators through such societies, the difficulties which they experience at present in obtaining advances would be removed. Such societies have already been established in Bengal, and they are sadly wanted in these provinces.

Circulation,
500 copies.

The *Nasim-i-Agra*, of the 7th November, says that three or four days ago the priest of the Mankameshwar temple at Agra was found dead. The temple is the same where the blowing of the shell early in the morning has been forbidden. Different rumours are afloat regarding the priest's sudden death. Some men say that he incurred the displeasure of Mahádeoiji, owing to the stoppage of the morning worship; while according to another story his death is due to starvation, as it has been alleged that he refrained from taking any food from the day the blowing of the shell was stopped. But evidently the rumours are unfounded.

Circulation,
425 copies.

The *Hindustan* (Kálákankar), of the 7th November, says that there are 28,000 schools in France, where the sons of the peasantry are

Circulation,
500 copies.

Sudden death of the priest of the Mankameshwar temple at Agra.

Schools of Gardening.

taught arboriculture and gardening, the schools being entirely maintained at the public expense. In Sweden 22,000 children are receiving instruction in gardening. But it is to be regretted that no such useful institutions have been established in this country either by Government or well-to-do persons.

LEGISLATION.

Circulation,
160 copies.

A correspondent of the *Rahbar* (Moradabad), of the 8th November, referring to the draft of the Village Sanitation Bill, circulated

Village sanitation. by the Local Government among district officers and municipal boards for opinion, observes that sanitary reforms are no doubt sadly wanted in villages, but that the mere improvement of wells will not do. The improvement of drainage is the most necessary reform, the natural drainage of villages having been interfered with by railways and canals. The cost which the improvement of drainage might involve should be paid from the railway and the irrigation revenues or from local rates which are intended for local improvements. No special Act is needed to encourage village sanitation, the district officers being quite competent to introduce sanitary reforms without the aid of any special law. The levy of an additional tax to meet the expenses of village sanitation will press hard on landholders, cultivators and other residents in villages, and will prove a means of extortion in the hands of unprincipled tahsildárs and kanúngos who will assess the tax. As it is, the condition of landholders is very unsatisfactory, owing to severe revenue assessments and other causes. The costly dresses in which they appear at darbárs in accordance with the orders of district officers are no proof of their being wealthy. The agricultural classes are far worse off and have to put up with insufficient quantities of food. If Government can improve village drainage without imposing any additional burdens on the rural population, well and good; otherwise village sanitation had better be left as it is. The first duty of Government is to see that the people are able to feed and clothe themselves properly, food and clothing being more necessary for the preservation of health than pure water. Sir Auckland Colvin is so anxious to provide a pure water-supply, but does not care to render relief to

the poorer classes among whom distress prevails on account of the scarcity of grain. His Honor has not yet seen his way to checking the export of wheat.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Hindustan* (Kálákankar), of the 7th November, says

Circulation,
500 copies.

Native traders in Africa.

that the inhabitants of this country have always been very averse to migration to other countries. But it is a matter of satisfaction that some native merchants of Bombay have lately carried on successful trade in Africa and have consequently been induced to settle there. This is a happy sign of the times, and may lead to important results. These enterprising merchants had better form joint stock companies, build their own ships, and extend the sphere of their trade. Efforts should be made by them to establish Indian colonies in Africa and other places. In that case they would benefit themselves and relieve their country of surplus population.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
1	Agra Akhbar	Agra	Urdu	Weekly	Tajammul Humain...	Nov. 7th	1891.	262 copies.
2	Akhbar-i-Alam	Meerut	"	"	Muqarrab Hussain Khan.	" 3rd	"	65 "
3	Aligarh Institute Gazette,	Aligarh	Urdu-English.	Bi-weekly	Alim-ul-lah	Oct. 27th & Nov. 3rd & 7th.	" 6th & 9th.	469 copies (including 283 copies taken by Govt.)
4	Anjuman-i-Hind	Lucknow	Urdu	Weekly	Kishun Lal	Nov. 7th	11th	129 copies.
5	Arya Pathra	Bareilly	"	Monthly	Jwala Prasad	For Nov.	12th	400 "
6	Asid	Lucknow	"	Weekly	Ashraf Ali	Nov. 6th	8th	335 "
7	Bharat Jivan (Hindi)	Benares	Hindi	"	Ram Krishn, Varná,	Nov. 9th	11th	1,500 "
8	Bharat Jivan (Gorkha)	"	Gorkha	"	Ditto	" 6th	8th	"
9	Bigya Brindaban	Brindaban (Muttra.)	Hindi	Bi-monthly	Nannhe Mal	Oct. 5th & Nov. 3rd.	"	"
10	Cawnpore Gazette	Cawnpore	Urdu	Weekly	Harnam Singh	Nov. 1st	9th	400 copies.
11	Chamanistan-i-Siddiqat	Unao	"	Monthly	Yaqub Ali	For Oct.	10th	680 "
12	Colonel	Moradabad	"	Weekly	Banwari Lal	Nov. 8th	11th	260 "
13	Dalad-i-Qaisari	Bareilly	"	"	Thakur Prasad	" 7th	"	200 "
14	Dalad-i-Sikandar	Rampur	"	"	Muhammad Hussain,	" 9th	"	450 "
15	Dabir-i-Hind	Agra	"	Tri-monthly,	Amin-ul-din	Nov. 1st & 10th.	Nov. 8th & 12th.	50 "
16	Futuh	Gorakhpur	"	Weekly	Nisam Ahmad	" 8th	11th	500 "
17	Hamid-ul-Akhbar	Moradabad	"	Tri-monthly,	Ishai Baksh	" 6th	8th	91 "
18	india	Kalkankar...	Hindi	Daily	Gur Datt Sukla	" 5th to 11th.	6th to 12th.	500 "

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